Claims

What is claimed is:

    1.   A method of managing information, said method comprising:

5   identifying information to be managed; and

          managing the information within a public electronic environment, wherein one or more aspects of managing the information traditionally performed within a private electronic environment

10   are performed within the public electronic environment off-line from the private electronic environment.

    2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the information comprises a proposal for a contract.

15   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said managing comprises creating the information.

    4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the information comprises a proposal for a contract, and the creating comprises entering data for the proposal.

20   5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising obtaining one or more data from the private electronic environment to be used in creating the proposal.

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6. The method of claim 4, wherein the creating further comprises negotiating one or more terms of the proposal, while disconnected from the private electronic environment.

5   7. The method of claim 1, wherein said managing comprises maintaining the information.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said managing comprises obtaining status relating to the information.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising
10   registering the information with the private electronic environment.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said managing comprises requesting approval of the information, and wherein said registering is performed in response to the
15   approval.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said registering is performed in real-time.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the information comprises a proposal, and wherein the registering comprises
20   registering the proposal with the private electronic environment to form a contract.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the managing comprises administering the contract.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the managing comprises obtaining a report associated with the information.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the private electronic environment comprises a server executing an enterprise resource planning system.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the public electronic environment comprises a server executing a web portal.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising pre-fetching data from said private electronic environment to be used in the managing of said information.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising storing said data within said public electronic environment.

19. A method of managing the creation of a proposal, said method comprising:

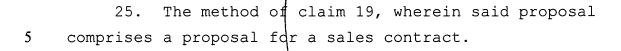   obtaining data for said proposal from a private electronic environment;

5   creating said proposal at a public electronic environment disconnected from said private electronic environment, said creating using at least a portion of the obtained data; and
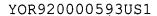
    providing said proposal to said private
10   electronic environment.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising approving said proposal, prior to providing said proposal to said private electronic environment.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said providing
15 comprises registering said proposal with said private electronic environment, subsequent to said approval, wherein said proposal becomes a contract.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein said creating said proposal comprises negotiating one or more terms of said
20 proposal.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein said public electronic environment comprises a web server.

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24.   The method of claim 19, wherein said private
electronic environment comprises a server protected by one
or more fire walls.

25.   The method of claim 19, wherein said proposal
5   comprises a proposal for a sales contract.

26. A system of managing information, said system
comprising:

information to be managed; and

means for managing the information within a
public electronic environment, wherein one or more
aspects of managing the information traditionally
performed within a private electronic environment
are performed within the public electronic
environment off-line from the private electronic
environment.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the information
comprises a proposal for a contract.

28. The system of claim 26, wherein said means for
managing comprises means for creating the information.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the information
comprises a proposal for a contract, and the means for
creating comprises means for entering data for the proposal.

30. The system of claim 29, further comprising means
for obtaining one or more data from the private electronic
environment to be used in creating the proposal.

31. The system of claim 29, wherein the means for creating further comprises means for negotiating one or more terms of the proposal, while disconnected from the private electronic environment.

5   32. The system of claim 26, wherein said means for managing comprises means for maintaining the information.

33. The system of claim 26, wherein said means for managing comprises means for obtaining status relating to the information.

10   34. The system of claim 26, further comprising means for registering the information with the private electronic environment.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein said means for managing comprises means for requesting approval of the
15   information, and wherein the registering is performed in response to the approval.

36. The system of claim 34, wherein the registering is performed in real-time.

37. The system of claim 34, wherein the information
20   comprises a proposal, and wherein the means for registering comprises means for registering the proposal with the private electronic environment to form a contract.

38.   The system of claim 37, wherein the means for managing comprises means for administering the contract.

39.   The system of claim 26, wherein the means for managing comprises means for obtaining a report associated with the information.

40.   The system of claim 26, wherein the private electronic environment comprises a server executing an enterprise resource planning system.

41.   The system of claim 26, wherein the public electronic environment comprises a server executing a web portal.

42.   The system of claim 26, further comprising means for pre-fetching data from said private electronic environment to be used in the managing of said information.

43.   The system of claim 42, further comprising means for storing said data within said public electronic environment.

44.   A system of managing the creation of a proposal, said system comprising:

means for obtaining data for said proposal from a private electronic environment;

5   means for creating said proposal at a public electronic environment disconnected from said private electronic environment, said means for creating using at least a portion of the obtained data; and

10   means for providing said proposal to said private electronic environment.

45.   The system of claim 44, further comprising means for approving said proposal, prior to providing said proposal to said private electronic environment.

15   46.   The system of claim 45, wherein said means for providing comprises means for registering said proposal with said private electronic environment, subsequent to said approval, wherein said proposal becomes a contract.

47.   The system of claim 44, wherein said means for 20   creating said proposal comprises means for negotiating one or more terms of said proposal.

48.   The system of claim 44, wherein said public electronic environment comprises a web server.

49.	The system of claim 44, wherein said private electronic environment comprises a server protected by one or more fire walls.

50.	The system of claim 44, wherein said proposal comprises a proposal for a sales contract.

51.   A system of managing information, said system
comprising:

    information to be managed; and

    a public electronic environment adapted to
5   manage the information, wherein one or more
aspects of managing the information traditionally
performed within a private electronic environment
are performed within the public electronic
environment off-line from the private electronic
10   environment.

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52. A system of managing the creation of a proposal, said system comprising:

   data for said proposal obtained from a private electronic environment;

5   a public electronic environment adapted to create said proposal disconnected from said private electronic environment, said public electronic environment using at least a portion of the obtained data; and

10   a private electronic environment adapted to receive the proposal.

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53. At least one program storage device readable by a
machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of
instructions executable by the machine to perform a method
of managing information, said method comprising:

5   identifying information to be managed; and
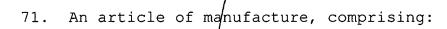
           managing the information within a public
        electronic environment, wherein one or more
        aspects of managing the information traditionally
        performed within a private electronic environment
10   are performed within the public electronic
        environment off-line from the private electronic
        environment.

     54. The at least one program storage device of claim
53, wherein the information comprises a proposal for a
15 contract.

     55. The at least one program storage device of claim
53, wherein said managing comprises creating the
information.

     56. The at least one program storage device of claim
20 55, wherein the information comprises a proposal for a
contract, and the creating comprises entering data for the
proposal.

57. The at least one program storage device of claim
56, wherein said method further comprises obtaining one or
more data from the private electronic environment to be used
in creating the proposal.

5   58. The at least one program storage device of claim
56, wherein the creating further comprises negotiating one
or more terms of the proposal, while disconnected from the
private electronic environment.

        59. The at least one program storage device of claim
10   53, wherein said managing comprises maintaining the
information.

        60. The at least one program storage device of claim
53, wherein said managing comprises obtaining status
relating to the information.

15   61. The at least one program storage device of claim
53, wherein said method further comprises registering the
information with the private electronic environment.

        62. The at least one program storage device of claim
61, wherein said managing comprises requesting approval of
20   the information, and wherein said registering is performed
in response to the approval.

        63. The at least one program storage device of claim
61, wherein said registering is performed in real-time.

64. The at least one program storage device of claim 61, wherein the information comprises a proposal, and wherein the registering comprises registering the proposal with the private electronic environment to form a contract.

5   65. The at least one program storage device of claim 64, wherein the managing comprises administering the contract.

66. The at least one program storage device of claim 53, wherein the managing comprises obtaining a report
10   associated with the information.

67. The at least one program storage device of claim 53, wherein the private electronic environment comprises a server executing an enterprise resource planning system.

68. The at least one program storage device of claim
15   53, wherein the public electronic environment comprises a server executing a web portal.

69. The at least one program storage device of claim 53, wherein said method further comprises pre-fetching data from said private electronic environment to be used in the
20   managing of said information.

70. The at least one program storage device of claim 69, wherein said method further comprises storing said data within said public electronic environment.

71. An article of manufacture, comprising:

at least one computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing the managing of the creation of a proposal, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to obtain data for said proposal from a private electronic environment;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to create said proposal at a public electronic environment disconnected from said private electronic environment, said computer readable program code means for causing a computer to create using at least a portion of the obtained data; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to provide said proposal to said private electronic environment.
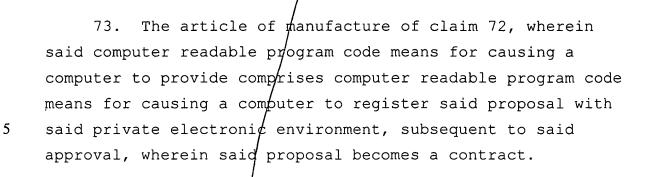
72. The article of manufacture of claim 71, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to approve said proposal, prior to providing said proposal to said private electronic environment.

73.   The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein said computer readable program code means for causing a computer to provide comprises computer readable program code means for causing a computer to register said proposal with

5   said private electronic environment, subsequent to said approval, wherein said proposal becomes a contract.

74.   The article of manufacture of claim 71, wherein said public electronic environment comprises a web server.

75.   The article of manufacture of claim 71, wherein

10   said private electronic environment comprises a server protected by one or more fire walls.

76.   The article of manufacture of claim 71, wherein said proposal comprises a proposal for a sales contract.

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